Deaths in Tihar Jail

2099. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in the recent past deaths have been reported in high security Tihar Jail, Delhi, due to bad living conditions, poor health and heat;

(b) whether it is a fact that barracks in Tihar are low roofed, very small windows, moreover not at all hospitable especially during summer and all the prisoners are supposed to be locked up in the afternoon in the barracks;

c) if so, whether Government is considering to improve the above mentioned condition; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) There had been some death in Tihar Jail in the months of June, 2007 due to overcrowding of prisoners, extremely hot weather and also because some prisoners were already sick and having poor health status.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) and (d) Does not arise. However, the steps taken to improve living conditions of prisoners include renovation of old barracks and toilets, special attention to sanitation and hygiene, effective garbage disposal system. Special attention is also paid to the seriously sick prisoners so that regular watch is kept over their health condition. The cases of seriously ill/terminally ill prisoners are also taken up with their concerned trial courts so that bail may be granted to such prisoners as per provisions of Jail Manual.

Increasing drug abuse in the country

2100. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drug abuse in the country is on the increase, especially among the youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government;

(d) whether Government contemplates any new law in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) There is no authentic report to indicate the increase of drug abuse in the country among youth.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment, the nodal Ministry for drug demand reduction, is implementing the Scheme for prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse to deal with the problem of drug abuse/addiction for the victims of substance abuse as a part of its drug demand reduction strategy. The major components of the drug demand reduction strategy are preventive awareness, motivational counseling, curative treatment and post-treatment rehabilitation of substance abusers. Under the Scheme financial assistance is provided to Voluntary organizations for setting up and maintenance of Counselling Centres and Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation Centres in the country.

(d) and (e) No Sir.